

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

President Vicente Fox
United Mexican States
Residencia Oficial de Los Pinos
Puerta #5, Casa Anexa P.B.
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
11850 Mexico, D.F.

June 17, 2003

Dear President Fox:

Since your election in 2000, you and your administration have made very important strides in improving Mexico's human rights record. We commend your creation of a Special Prosecutor's Office for the investigations of "Crimes of the Past" and your leadership in having the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights operate an office in Mexico. We applaud your progress in advancing Mexico's commitment to human rights.

As Members of United States House of Representatives, we are writing to express our deep concern over the state of investigation into the murders of over 300 women in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua over the past decade. We urge you to launch a comprehensive, federal investigation where the Federal Attorney General assumes responsibility for all investigations related to the murders of women in Ciudad Juarez. In doing so, we echo the sentiments of the Mexican Senate, the President of the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

We are cognizant of the sovereignty of the Republic of Mexico and strongly encourage any collaboration with the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that honors this sovereignty and leads to the successful resolution of these homicides. The El Paso Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has advised us that they are willing to provide federal authorities assistance upon request. Currently, the FBI and other U.S. law enforcement agencies, including the El Paso Police Department, are providing training, and investigative advice as it is requested from the Chihuahua authorities.

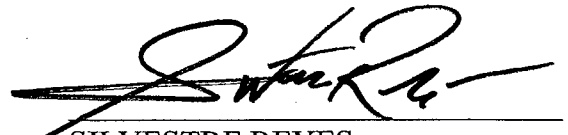
We respect the legal authority of the Chihuahua state and municipal authorities to carry out investigations in murder cases. However, we believe that the federal government is best equipped to lead a coordinated effort to guarantee the right to justice to its citizens and to end impunity in these crimes. Given the history of the Ciudad Juarez murders and the abundant theories of organized responsibility, we understand the 1996 Federal Law Against Organized Crime gives your Administration sufficient authority to transfer jurisdiction over these cases to the Federal Attorney General. We applaud the Federal Attorney General's recent steps to claim jurisdiction over 14 cases in Ciudad Juarez because they may involve the trafficking of organs. We hope this is the first step in the process of expanding jurisdiction over more cases.

We commend your public expression of deep concern for the situation in Juarez and condemnation of these homicides as unacceptable and unpardonable acts of violence. It is our hope that you will call for coordinated and thorough federal action to close a 10-year chapter of murder and fear. We also encourage you to work together with the FBI and develop a detailed plan for an investigation that address coordination issues between the Federal Attorney General's Office and the State Attorney General's office and directs the course of action towards the arrest of the perpetrators and an end to the murders.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. We look forward to your response.

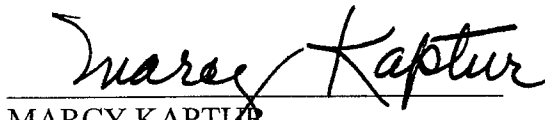
Sincerely,

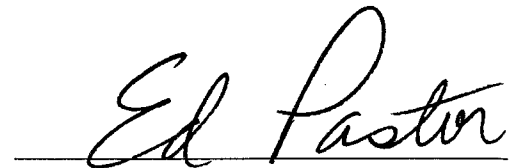

HILDA L. SOLIS
Member of Congress



SILVESTRE REYES
Member of Congress



CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ
Member of Congress

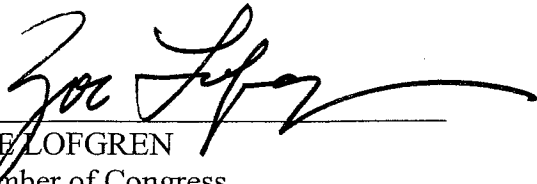

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Member of Congress


MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress


ED PASTOR
Member of Congress


CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
Member of Congress


LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress



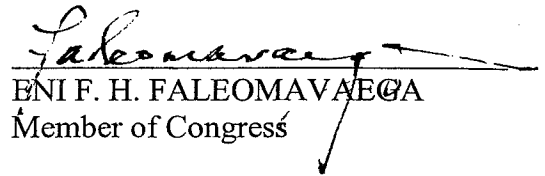
ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



LINDA SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress



CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress



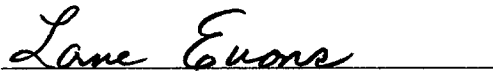
ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA
Member of Congress



ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ
Member of Congress



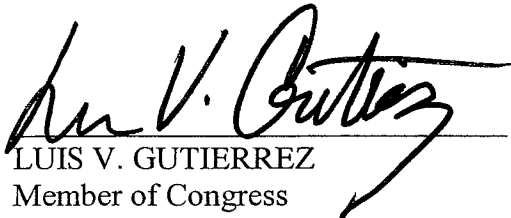
NYIMA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress



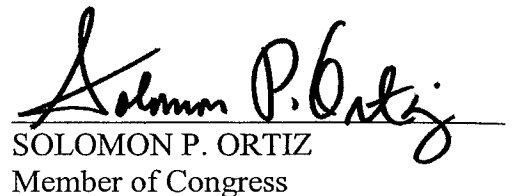
LANE EVANS
Member of Congress



LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress



LUIS V. GUTIERREZ
Member of Congress



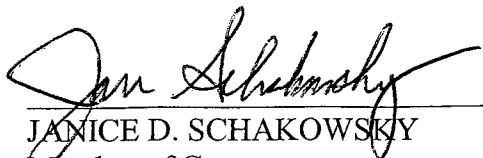
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
Member of Congress



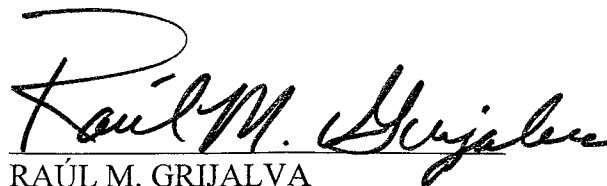
RUBÉN HINOJOSA
Member of Congress



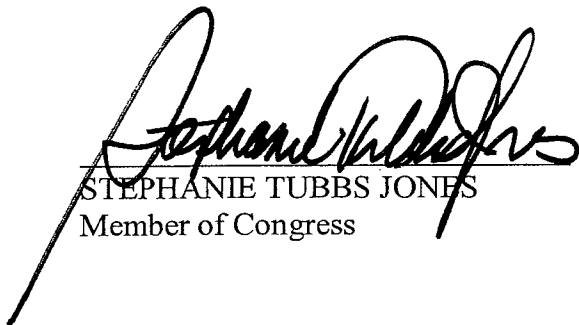
JOSÉ E. SERRANO
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JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



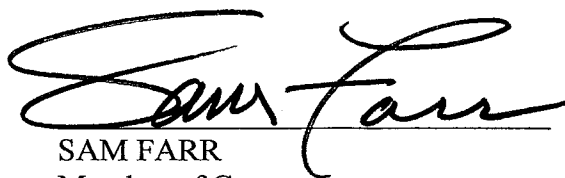
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES
Member of Congress



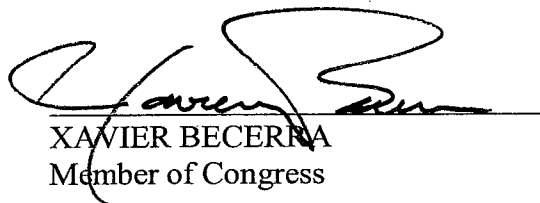
SHERROD BROWN
Member of Congress



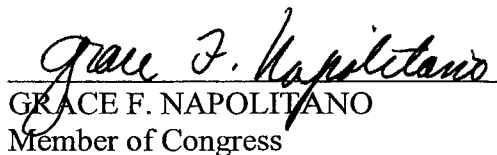
BARBARA LEE
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SAM FARR
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XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress



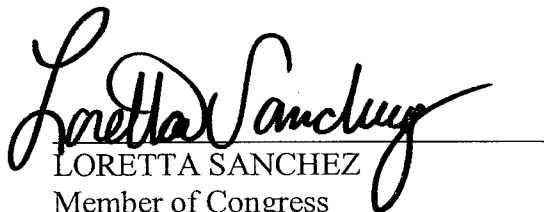
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



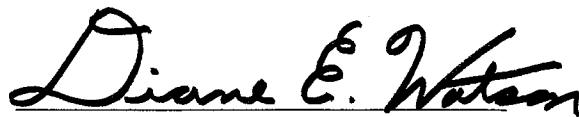
LOIS CAPPS
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DONALD M. PAYNE
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